

Docket No. 0905-0237P

Appl. No.: 09/586,594

Art Unit: 2615

Amendment dated July 21, 2004

Reply to Office Action of April 21, 2004

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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A digital still camera in which a settings recording medium and an image-signal recording medium are capable of being removably loaded, wherein settings data for setting at least one of shooting conditions and image processing methods for processing an image signal obtained by photography is recorded on the settings recording medium and the image signal obtained by photography is recorded on the image-signal recording medium, said digital still camera comprising:

an image sensing device for imaging a subject and outputting an image signal representing the image of the subject;

a settings data reading unit for reading the settings data that has been recorded on the settings recording medium;

an imaging control unit for controlling said image sensing device so as to image the subject in accordance with shooting conditions that are based upon the settings data when the settings data that has been read by said settings data reading unit pertains to these shooting conditions;

a determination unit for determining whether the settings data is incapable of being read by said settings-data reading unit;

an image signal processing unit for applying image processing to an image signal, which is output from said image sensing device, in accordance

with a processing method that is based upon the settings data when the settings data that has been read by said settings data reading unit pertains to this image processing method, for applying image processing of the image signal, which is output from said image sensing device, in accordance with a predetermined processing method, in response to a determination by said determination unit that the settings data cannot be read, and outputting the image signal that has been subjected to this image processing; and

a first image-signal recording controller for recording the image signal, which has been output from said image signal processing unit, on the image-signal recording medium.

2. (CANCELLED).

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The digital still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a processing-method-data storage unit for storing data representing a processing method that has been executed by said image signal processing unit; and

~~a first determination unit for determining whether the settings data is incapable of being read by said settings data reading unit;~~

wherein in response to a determination by said ~~first~~ determination unit that the settings data cannot be read, said image signal processing unit executes image processing of the image signal, which is output from said image sensing device, in accordance with a processing method that is based upon data, which represents an immediately preceding processing method, stored in said processing-method-data storage unit.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The digital still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a shooting-condition storage unit for storing shooting conditions that were put into practice by said imaging control unit; and

~~a determination unit for determining whether the settings data is incapable of being read by said settings data reading unit;~~

wherein in response to a determination by said determination unit that the settings data cannot be read, said imaging controller controls said image sensing device in accordance with immediately preceding shooting conditions that have been stored in said shooting-condition storage unit.

5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital still camera according to claim 1, further comprising a loading sensing unit for sensing that the settings recording medium has been loaded;

wherein in response to sensing by said loading sensing unit of the fact that the settings recording medium has been loaded, said settings data reading unit reads data that has been recorded on the settings recording medium.

6. (ORIGINAL) The digital still camera according to claim 1, further comprising a reset-command input unit;

wherein in response to entry of a reset command from said reset-command input unit, said settings data reading unit reads settings data that has been recorded on the settings recording medium.

7. (ORIGINAL) The digital still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a first socket for loading the settings recording medium; and  
a second socket for loading the image-signal recording medium.

8. (ORIGINAL) The digital still camera according to claim 1, further comprising a second image-signal recording controller for recording the image

signal, which has been output from said image signal processing unit, on the settings recording medium.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reduced-image generating unit for generating a reduced image of an image represented by the image signal output from said image signal processing unit; and

a second image-signal recording controller for recording a signal representing a reduced image generated by said reduced-image generating unit on the settings recording medium.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

an image signal reading unit for reading an image signal that has been recorded on the image-signal recording medium; and

a display controller for exercising control in such a manner that an image represented by the image signal read by said image signal reading unit is displayed on a display unit.

11. (ORIGINAL) The digital still camera according to claim 1, wherein settings data representing image processing methods of a plurality of types are recorded on the settings recording medium; said camera further comprising:

a processing-method display controller for exercising control in such a manner that image processing methods of a plurality of types represented by settings data read by said settings data reading unit are displayed on a display unit; and

a processing-method selection unit for selecting a desired processing method from among the processing methods of the plurality of types displayed on the display unit;

said image signal processing unit executes image signal processing in accordance with a processing method that has been selected by said processing-method selection unit.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital still camera according to claim 1, further comprising:

a recording controller for recording an image signal, which has been processed in accordance with a processing method selected by said processing-method selection unit, on said image-signal recording medium;

an image signal reading unit for reading an image signal recorded by said recording controller from said image-signal recording medium; and

an image display controller for displaying, on a display unit, an image represented by the image signal that has been read by said image signal reading unit.

13. (ORIGINAL) The digital still camera according to claim 1, wherein settings data representing shooting conditions of a plurality of types are recorded on the settings recording medium; said camera further comprising:

a shooting-condition display controller for exercising control in such a manner that shooting conditions of a plurality of types represented by settings data read by said settings data reading unit are displayed on a display unit; and

a shooting-condition selection unit for selecting a desired shooting condition from among the shooting conditions of the plurality of types displayed on the display unit;

said imaging control unit controls said image sensing device in accordance with a shooting condition that has been selected by said operating-condition selection unit.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The digital still camera according to claim 13, further comprising:

a recording controller for recording, on the image-signal recording medium, an image signal captured in accordance with a shooting condition that has been selected by said shooting-condition selection unit; and

an image signal reading unit for reading, from the image-signal recording medium, and an image represented by the image signal that has been read by said image signal reading unit.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method of controlling a digital still camera in which a settings recording medium and an image-signal recording medium are capable of being removably loaded, wherein settings data for setting at least one of shooting conditions and image processing methods for processing the image signal obtained by photography is recorded on the settings recording medium and an image signal obtained by photography is recorded on the image-signal recording medium, said method comprising the steps of:

imaging a subject and outputting an image signal representing the image of the subject;

reading the settings data that has been recorded on the settings recording medium with a settings data reading unit;

when the settings data that has been read pertains to shooting conditions, imaging the subject in accordance with shooting conditions that are based upon this settings data;

when the settings data that has been read pertains to an image processing method, applying image processing to an image signal, which has been obtained by photography, in accordance with a processing method that is based upon this settings data;

determining with a determination unit whether the settings data is incapable of being read by said settings data reading unit and applying image processing of the image signal which is output from said image sensing device in accordance with a predetermined processing method, in response to a determination by the determination unit that the settings data cannot be read; and

recording the image signal, which has been subjected to this image processing, on the image-signal recording medium.